

City of Northampton, MA
Transportation and Parking Commission

October 16, 2018

MEETING MINUTES

Submitted by: Beth A. Kaplowitt

1. Councilor Jim Nash called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and announced that there would be audio/video recording of this meeting. He also welcomed Debin Bruce as a new Citizen member of the Transportation and Parking Commission (TPC). Ms. Bruce was previously a member of the Committee as a representative of the Planning Department.

Members present and absent/introductions:

Member	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Councilor Jim Nash, Chair	X	
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra, Vice Chair	X	
Donna LaScaleia, DPW Director	X	
Jody Kasper, Chief of Police	X	
Wayne Feiden, Director of Planning and Sustainability	Absent	
David Pomerantz, Director of Central Services	X	
Debin Bruce, Citizen	X	
Gary Hartwell, Citizen	X	
Vacant seat, Citizen	Absent	
Jami Albro-Fisher, Citizen	X	.
Alan Verson, Planning Board	X	
Staff	Present	Time if arriving late or leaving early
Nanci Forrestall, Parking Enforcement	X	
Maggie Chan, Traffic Engineer	X	
Beth A. Kaplowitt, DPW Clerk	X	

2. Public comment:
 - None.
3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting:

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To approve the minutes from the September 18, 2018 meeting.	Gary Hartwell	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Yes, 7 No, 0 Abstain, 2

4. Reports from departments and subcommittees/announcements/presentations:
 - Department of Public Works (DPW) Updates – Director Donna LaScaleia:
 - a. Chesterfield Road Repaving**
 - Chesterfield Road has been paved. Palmer Paving will be finishing up the project by completing driveways and placing loam and seed;
 - b. Paving Contract 2018**
 - Final paving for Pleasant Street, Hampton Avenue, Fulton Avenue, Wright Avenue, and Cooke Avenue is scheduled for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (10/22/18-10/24/18). Parking will be prohibited on those streets during paving. During the paving of Pleasant Street on Monday and Tuesday, only one-way northbound traffic will be allowed. Southbound traffic will be detoured to Crafts Avenue, Old South Street, and Conz Street to get to I-91;
 - c. Crack sealing Contract**
 - Crack sealing various streets is scheduled for early November;
 - d. Pavement Markings**
 - Double yellow center lines and white edge lines have been repainted. Lane lines, turn arrows, speed hump markings, and other hand work will be completed before November 15th;
 - e. Clement Street Bridge**
 - Repairs are complete and the bridge is open to vehicular traffic.

Alan Verson asked if planned pavement markings would include some just past the Veterans Administration property in Leeds. Director LaScaleia said that she would look into having it done by the DPW if it is not in the original paving contract.

5. Matters before the Commission:

Councilor Nash announced that he would be taking the items in this Agenda section in a different order.

a. Discussion of parking zone change for Wilder Place:

- Dave Bergengren of 19 Wilder Place asked that the TPC designate only one space per lot if they were not considering residents only parking. He also reiterated his support for the elimination of the parking spot that is causing the biggest problem with visibility at the Main and Wilder intersection;
- [The TPC continued this discussion later in the meeting as follows:] The DPW did look to determine on which side of the street parking should be allowed. Nanci Forrestall said that having line striping definitely makes parking violations more enforceable.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To adopt Ordinance 312-102 Schedule I (amendments to parking zone changes on Wilder Place) as written.	Debin Bruce	David Pomerantz	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To eliminate a parking space on Main Street on the northerly side of Main Street to the west of the entrance to Wilder Place.	Debin Bruce	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- b. Discussion of 18.125 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 312-104 of the Code Book, parking changes for downtown Florence concerning Main Street, Maple Street and Chestnut Street:
- Councilor Nash explained that this proposal would change the time limit on unmetered spaces in Florence from one hour to two hours, which would be consistent with the downtown Northampton policy;
 - Mayor Narkewicz met with the Florence Civic & Business Association, and they are supportive of the proposed change. The Mayor feels that enough outreach has been done;
 - The Ordinance has already been sent to the City Council Committee on Legislative Matters and they sent it forward to the TPC with a positive recommendation;

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To forward 18.125 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 312-104 to City Council with a positive recommendation.	David Pomerantz	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- c. Discussion of line striping parking spaces around the intersection of Chestnut and Main Street in Florence:
- Councilors Nash and Murphy walked around the area;
 - Joan Weigle of 47 Chestnut Street said that the parking situation has been chaotic since the Pie Bar opened. She hopes that the parking situation can be organized, and thinks that line striping would be effective. There is unclear and confusing signage that appears to point directly toward her house;
 - Danielle Rao of 53 Chestnut Street says she must call the Parking Department and the Police Department regularly to complain about people parking too close/overhanging her driveway. She would like to see parking allowed only on the easterly side of the street and line striping for clarification as well;
 - There was a discussion regarding the need for a larger conversation regarding policies for line striping, maintenance and enforcement;
 - In response to several queries, Director LaScaleia stated that she would like to have this discussion before the TPC asks the DPW to do any specific measurements. She did agree to provide some general information on the topic. She also will have the DPW look at the sign outside 47 Chestnut Street and take appropriate action to clarify the situation.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To examine line striping issues in the City and formulate criteria and a policy over the winter.	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Jody Kasper	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- d. Discussion of 18.123 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 312-110 of the Code Book, parking change for Strong Avenue:
- This Strong Avenue lot (by the Eastside Grill) is the last remaining lot that has a two hour parking limit;
 - This change to a three hour limit will bring this lot in line with the previous parking plan.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To forward 18.123 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 312-110 to City Council with a positive recommendation.	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Gary Hartwell	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- e. Discussion of 18.173 an Ordinance to Chapter 312-36 of the Code Book (proposal to increase fees in E.J. Gare Parking Garage):
- This aligns with the rest of the parking plan;
 - Councilor Nash spoke to Mayor Narkewicz about the anticipated rollout of this revenue raising measure. The Mayor will be meeting with the owners of Thornes Marketplace (who are supportive of the change) and the newspaper;
 - Director Pomerantz said that there will be almost no cost to implement the change.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To forward 18.173 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 312-36 to City Council with a positive recommendation.	Debin Bruce	Gina-Louise Sciarra	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- f. Taxi language revisions:
- Councilor Nash has been working on this with City Solicitor Seewald;
 - Chief Kasper, Councilor Sciarra, Director LaScaleia and Councilor Nash have also met, and they will have something to present for the next TPC meeting;
 - The topic is tabled until the next meeting.
- g. Discussion of parking zone change on Grove Avenue across from #77 and #82:
- This proposed Ordinance will prohibit parking on the Westerly side of Grove Avenue.

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To forward 18.XXX An Ordinance Relative to Parking on Grove Avenue, which would amend Chapter 312-102 to City Council with a positive recommendation.	David Pomerantz	Jami Albro-Fisher	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To table a discussion regarding pavement markings on Grove Avenue until a line striping policy is formulated.	Jami Albro-Fisher	Jody Kasper	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

- h. Discussion of line striping for parking on Fruit Street:
- Nanci Forrestall asked who was going to paint the lines if line striping were approved on this street - Parking Maintenance or the DPW?

Motion:	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
To table a discussion regarding pavement markings on Fruit Street until a line striping policy is formulated.	Jody Kasper	Gary Hartwell	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0

i. Discussion of crosswalk at Live 155:

- Chief Kasper said that the unfamiliar street structure here has led to confusion on the part of both pedestrians and motorists on this very busy street. She would like to see some type of line striping done;
- Director LaScaleia spoke to the engineering company that designed it and they do not recommend line striping as it would result in too much visual clutter (Debin Bruce also said that there is too much signage there already). She also said that if pedestrian paddles were placed, they would be probably be knocked down very quickly. She would like to wait until the paving in the area has been completed as it may make things more apparent;
- Chief Kasper said that there have been no accidents reported at the location, but there have been some near misses and a couple of complaints received regarding confusion. She said that she would keep an eye on the situation over the winter and bring the issue back to TPC again in a few months.

6. New Business

- Director Pomerantz suggested that the January or February TPC meeting would be a good time to have a more robust discussion of line striping;
- Director LaScaleia said that the DPW will provide a bullet point list of considerations for the discussion.

7. Adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Motion	Motion by:	Second:	Vote:
Adjourn.	Jami Albro-Fisher	Gary Hartwell	Yes, 9 No, 0 Abstain, 0